

Afghanistan

WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE  
TEXT OF INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT REAGAN  
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THE WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE  
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Q Mr. President, you're going to certainly talk about Afghanistan while in Moscow. Is it United States' policy now to support the rebels or give the Soviet Union a hand by trying to calm down the situation?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: We feel that as long as the Soviet Union has provided support and arms and so forth and advisors to the Afghan force of their puppet government, that even though they go, we must continue to support the Mujahadeen so that the people of Afghanistan can now, without the absence of the Soviet Union -- I mean without the presence of the Soviet Union, that they can bring about a government that is a government chosen by the people of Afghanistan.

And we do not recognize that the government there in Kabul is anything but a puppet government established by the Soviet Union. And so, yes, as long as weapons are being supplied to that other side, we're going to do whatever is necessary to support the Mujahadeen.